

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

AN AMERICAN FLOUNDER, *LIMANDA BEANII*, RE-
FERRED TO THE GENUS *POECILOPSETTA*.

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In 1881 Goode described, under the name of *Limanda Beanii*, a small flounder which the United States Fish Commission Steamer *Fish Hawk* had dredged in deep water off the southern coast of New England. Subsequently the species has been recorded from the Gulf of Mexico.

Although Goode noted some of the differences which widely separate this form from the typical species of *Limanda*, no author has assigned it to its true position in the system. It is clearly referable, however, to the deep-water genus *Poecilopsetta* Günther, hitherto recorded only from the Indo-Pacific region; it agrees in all respects with the following characterization of that genus.

GENUS *Poecilopsetta* Günther.

Eyes dextral, the margin of the upper entering the dorsal profile; interorbital space very narrow; head short; body strongly compressed, varying from elongate to rather robust; dorsal fin composed of about 60 rays, extending from a short distance behind vertical through pupil nearly to caudal base, of rather even height throughout; anal fin similar, of about 50 rays; anal spine weak; caudal rounded; pectoral short, that of the eyed side with 7 to 10 rays; pelvics short, subequal, but somewhat asymmetric, approaching those of the Psettinae, the one on the eyed side being slightly anterior to the left one, and nearer the ventral ridge; each pelvic fin of 6 rays; scales moderate in size or small, weakly ctenoid on eyed side, cycloid on blind side; interorbital, snout and jaws naked; lateral line with a large, flat-topped arch on eyed side, *obsolete on blind side*; mouth narrow, nearly symmetric, and rather small; teeth villiform, in bands, present on jaws only, better devel-

oped on the blind than on the eyed side; gill-rakers rather short, sharp and smooth; anus nearly on ventral ridge.

Five other species of *Poecilopsetta* are known (*P. maculosa*, *praelonga*, *plinthus*, *colorata* and *hawaiiensis*). *Poecilopsetta beanii* is a more slender fish than any of these except *P. praelonga*, from which it appears to differ in the narrower bands of teeth on the jaws.